

Rice, Robin (PUC)

PC 12-1163

From: gary bjerke <drivein@paulbunyan.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 9:17 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket #12-1163
Attachments: power line letter.pdf

November 17th, 2013

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Docket #12-1163

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deepest concern over the proposed southern alternative power line corridors for the GNTL. My wife and I have been residents on Balm Lake for over eight years. We chose to sell our reliable country home to invest in a home on Balm Lake. For many years we desired to have a home on a pristine lake that had clear water, fruitful fish populations, and abundant habitat that sustains nature's delicate ecosystems. We found all these qualities and more on Balm Lake. Needless to say, the proposed power lines would disrupt the beauty of this sacred lake and surrounding land.

Aside from the disruption to our beautiful panoramic lake views, there is the possible health risk of having 500 kv. transmission towers looming over our homes and lake. Even more concerning are the unknown effects of such a power line on the delicate ecosystems of Balm Lake and the surrounding environmental habitats. There is the dangerous potential of runoff from herbicides needed to maintain the right-of-way corridor. This run-off is capable of creating increased risk of death or injury to our nesting loons, ducks, eagles and ospreys, geese, swans and pelicans. The clearing of habitat for the creation of the power line corridor may also create habitat fragmentation on our animal populations.

We are also very concerned that the construction of this transmission line will negatively affect our property values. Who is going to want to purchase a lake home or a farm with a wonderful view of 150 ft. towers? For most of us, our home represents our most valuable asset. If devalued, this reduces our net worth and our family's future options.

We strongly urge the MPUC to reject the southern route and designate a northern route where it will have the least environmental and human impacts.

Sincerely,

Gary and Loretta Bjerke

Rice, Robin (PUC)

PC 12-1163

From: Angela Hanson <ahanson1995@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 10:19 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Public Comment - Great Northern Transmission Line Docket 12-1163
Attachments: GNTLDoc2 (2).pdf

Good morning,

Attached please find a PDF document in response to the public comment period on the GNTL project, docket 12-1163.

Due to website maintenance we are forwarding this for posting. However I will check back tomorrow for posting as well. However, wanted to ensure our comment was submitted prior to the November 19th deadline.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call 315-717-6588.

Thank you! Angela Hanson

November 16, 2013

Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line, Docket 12-1163, PUBLIC COMMENT

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing with our concern and opposition to the southern routes currently being considered for the GNTL. Balm Vista, LLC owns property in the Township of Alaska, Beltrami County on scenic Balm Lake. The property was purchased as an investment property earning income from guests looking for a relaxing vacation away from it all. Along with our guests and neighbors we also enjoy the beautiful, natural lake, its abundant wildlife and peaceful surroundings. We were forwarded a copy of the response by Minnesota Power to a letter submitted by the Balm Lake Lakeshore Owners Association. Despite giving the reason that it is a requirement to submit several alternative routes for consideration there was nothing in the response that defended either of the southern routes as the best option.

The Minnesota Power response did recognize that the southern routes would impact more people. In the response it stated that several recognized medical organizations have no verifiable evidence showing electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are harmful to humans. It is safe to say that medical science is forever changing and with only decades of research available, there is no guarantee that in the future several existing studies showing there are potential adverse effects from EMF could unfortunately be proven correct.

Medical concerns aside there are other significant impacts not addressed in the response. In real estate it is well documented that property values are negatively impacted by proximity to power lines. The percentage of impact depends on distance from the lines, visual impact and loss of productivity due to restrictions around and under the lines. Besides the loss of equity for any property owners in proximity to the lines, tourism is also a major economic driver along the southern routes. Throughout the southern routes businesses such as lake resort owners and private rentals such as ours would certainly see a negative impact due to the size and scope of the proposed transmission lines.

While we are homeowners on the lake, in our daily lives several of us are agricultural specialists, farm owners and operators. The southern routes would not only have the largest impact on the human population, but also the larger agricultural community. Besides tourism, counties such as Beltrami are in the top 10 agricultural counties in Minnesota for beef cattle. Clearwater is a top county for alfalfa hay and wild rice production. With US cattle numbers at the lowest point since the 1950's and severe weather events putting massive stress on livestock feed inventories, we cannot afford to lose any valuable crop or pasture lands.

Our position is not to deny that the power is important and it is going to take better infrastructure to get the power where it is needed, however this should be done in a way that minimizes the impact to health, agricultural, wildlife and property values. Clearly the southern routes would have the greatest impact in all these areas, so we strongly urge you to consider one of the northern routes as the best alternative.

Sincerely,

Balm Vista, LLC
41752 373rd Avenue
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
(651) 200-2359

Allen and Judy Gamradt
Seth and Angela Hanson
Neal Gamradt

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: elex morque <emorque@paulbunyan.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 8:45 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Great Northern Transmission Line - Docket #12-1163
Attachments: DEBS SUMMIT.PDF

Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket #12-1163
Public Comment

First I would like to thank you for being given the opportunity to express our opposition to the Great Northern Transmission Line southern corridor being proposed near Balm Lake.

A bit of the Morque family history at Balm Lake ...where four of my families generations have shared Christmas celebrations skating on the frozen lake, birthdays of young and old, family weddings, 4th of July picnics, family reunions, skiing, canoeing along the shores, watching my 89 year old mom sitting in the easy chair smiling and listening to the beautiful birds, walks in the woods where deer, raccoons, black bear, beaver, squirrels, chickadees, owls and dark eyed juncos thrive....wild turkeys and red foxes appearing in our path, bald eagles and blue herons cruising the shore and the clean clear water and fishes that only nature can provide.

In 1979 after years of searching for lake property in northern Minnesota we found the land of our dreams....Balm Lake. The perfect spot to begin our love affair with the natural beauty it would provide for us for years to come. The land was pristine undeveloped woods so we spent the first couple of years clearing by hand the roads and small spots to set up our tents. Then it was the winding paths to the lake and putting in our first docks. We drank water from a neighbors' old outdoor well, built an outdoor john and thought life was pretty darn good. In time we built a 12 x 12 cabin which served us well and as the years went by just kept knocking out a wall and adding on until we had a kitchen, a couple of bedrooms and even indoor plumbing. All the while joining the kids at the beach to frolic in the clean clear waters of Balm Lake. The woods and nature became our classroom...turtles, minnows and frogs our friends. This peaceful little lake brought our family and friends great joy.

We canoe in the morning mist as the sun is rising with the birds and beaver sharing our way. The daily walks in the back woods in the fall when the red maples are aglow with burnt oranges, reds and yellows are a beauty to behold with only sound of falling leaves or the crunch of pine needles at your feet and the chorus the songbirds overhead. During the days of summer, the sound of children's laughter calls you to the beach. My kids and grandkids all learned to swim in Balm Lake's quiet clear waters. Getting up at the crack of dawn when the sun is just rising to catch that elusive walleye is a child's and dad's delight or just fishing off the dock for sunnies or bass is pure joy.

Evenings are spent stargazing into the clear sky overhead...seeing the northern lights....falling stars....and even catching a glimpse of satellites passing by. There's always the crackling campfire for roasting marshmallows, telling stories and swatting the ever present mosquitoes nearby. Then off to bed with a good book and listening to the croaking of frogs and wailing of loons lull us to sleep. In the winter we go cross country skiing on some of our great handmade Balm Lake trails through the woods with the snow crunching below and sometimes even the glistening of hoarfrost decorating the trees above.

Years have flown by but our love for Balm Lake and this area of northern Minnesota has just kept growing. Our grandchildren now enjoy Balm Lake just as our children did when they were young. We know that for generations to come Balm Lake will be that special place to come to when one needs peaceful rest. I don't know how to explain it...it is just so good for one's soul just to be here.

I'd like you to read the attached editorial written a few years ago by a local author about the town of Debs which is just south of Balm Lake and the area in which the proposed southern corridors for the Great Northern Transmission Line. It sums up the type of people who live around here and their way of life. They don't move to this area or continue to live here for generations because of the money they make or to try to keep up with the Joneses. There is one draw here ...the natural beauty and peace and quiet! This is all we want---no frills---just calm clean waters for both mankind and wildlife, the sound of the loons, a quiet walk in the woods while gathering berries for canning and friendly neighbors nearby. Is this too much to ask for our continued happiness? The proposed southern corridor on either side of Balm Lake being proposed by Allete/Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line would take this all away! Nature has given us what no man has the right to take away or can ever replace.

If there is a need at all to build a new transmission line we ask that it be built in one of the northern corridors as that would be the most logical route going through a much less populated area. And if one does need to be built, does it need to be of this 500KV size.....with 150 foot poles towering over our forests? Has this need been proven?

In a September 26, 2013 newspaper article Allete Chairman and CEO, Alan Hodnik endorsed the concept of utilizing existing energy corridors now and in the future, stating that "we think it can bring a certain amount of efficiency and ease landowner fatigue." There is no need to carve a new 240 mile long, 200 feet wide transmission corridor through 5,800 acres of agricultural, timber and lake country when an alternate route already exists. Has a true need for this much power been proven or is there a bulk of it being marketed elsewhere with Minnesota Power and Manitoba Hydro as partners reaping a high economic benefit at the expense of others. With a minimal investment are they creating a high market opportunity for themselves and their shareholders. None of the persons along these proposed southern corridors will reap any rewards or use this as a power source. The irreversible damage is not the answer. Are there not alternatives to this proposal?

I would like to close by asking you to take time to view a video <http://youtu.be/8tq2-0FwbTU> that John Elsner, a Balm Lake property owner of small cabins that have been used by his family for generations....which to this day have no electricity.... produced when we as a group were opposing a major development on Balm Lake which eventually became the Dann Siems Aquatic Management Area. This will give you a true picture of what we at Balm Lake are so lucky to be a part of. The construction of the Great Northern Transmission Line southern corridor in this area would be devastating to this natural environment and all of the people who share Balm Lake.

Sincerely,

Elex and Craig Morque and family
Property Owner and year round Balm Lake residents

Let's have a world summit in Debs after the parade

About 1,000-plus parade lovers can now check off from their list of things to do



John R. Eggers

before they die, "See the Debs Fourth of July parade." It was a stunning day for a parade and once again, Debs came through.

Like each of us, parades have distinctive personalities. The Debs

parade is a good example. There is no equal. It stands alone — out among the woods, lakes and fields of northern Minnesota. It could be no other place. Eugene Debs would want it no other way.

What is it that draws people to the Debs parade on the Fourth of July? There is no grandiose float, no celebrated marching band, no celebrity and no sign of a Shriner go-cart. In fact, it's not even convenient. You also want to make sure you have enough gas in your tank to get there and back home again.

So why do people make the trek to this out-of-the-way place to see a half-hour parade go around twice?

Well, for one thing, I always envision the people that go to the Debs parade as the first ones in line to go to the moon or to do a vision quest or to join the Peace Corps or start a commune or vote for someone who claimed to have the solution to world peace even though he or she may have been raised by timber wolves, rode to town on a llama and did not own a cell phone.

When you cross the line entering the village of Debs, you are who you are and appreciated for who you are. Debs advocates thrive and respect diversity and this is why it would be a good place to hold a world summit meeting. They could do it following the parade.

I can see it all now. There is this huge yellow, red, purple and blue tent out in the middle of someone's pasture with several old outhouses situated on the edge. In the middle is a round circle of wood planks supported by logs

sit, being careful not to catch any slivers. A medicine man would pass around a peace pipe and they would discuss the affairs of the world among the breezes and myriad smells ranging from clover and wildflowers to the smell of a few placid horses put out to pasture. The paradegoers could mingle outside the tent and offer suggestions in the spirit of Eugene Debs.

After each summit session, they would be given a hay ride over to Myrtle Lake to cool off followed by a wiener roast. I think most of our world's problems could be solved by a Debs summit. Someone ought to recommend that to President Bush. It would give his ratings a big boost.

Every parade needs a water squirter and the Debs parade entries seemed to have a high ratio of squirters. Americans take life much too seriously.

Workers in other countries get 20 to 30 days or more off a year, whereas Americans are addicted to work.

Entering the outskirts of Debs, you begin to forget your cares and woes. You could be in a small Latin American village where the only timepiece is the sound of a rooster. Those guys and gals in little fire engines and on horse-drawn wagons squirt you with water to awaken you to the reality of life. If you don't enjoy it now, you never will, but here in Debs we give you that second chance because our parade goes around twice.

"Please bear with us in Debs," said one entry. Naturally, there was a statue of a cut-out bear with the sign beneath it. Debs needs no apology. It is what it is. But for the first-timers, the sign was an attempt to explain Debs, which is hard to explain because it really isn't anything tangible.

Debs is a spiritual experience. You go there, you participate in the event, you have fellowship with some people, you leave relieved of life's troubles — kind of like going to church.

I doubt if many people know of Eugene Debs. There probably should be a monument of him in the Debs town square. A plaque

would do as well. Maybe next year someone should throw out paper airplanes with a biography of Eugene Debs written on it.

He was quite a guy, a real Debs kind of a guy. He ran for president five times and on his fifth time, he ran from prison. He was arrested and convicted under the Espionage Act for his opposition to World War I.

He died in 1926. For his eulogy, one person said, "That old man with his burning eyes actually believes that there can be such a thing as the brotherhood of man. And that's not the funniest thing part of it. As long as he's around I believe it myself."

The spirit of Eugene Debs lives in the paradegoers.

That's as good of a reason for the Debs parade as I can think of. It's the brotherhood of men and women, boys and girls, ponies and dogs wrapped into an event called the Debs Fourth of July parade. My life has been renewed once again.

John R. Eggers of Bemidji is a former university professor and area principal. He also is a writer and public speaker.

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Bill or Terry Cox <Bcox@northlc.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 12:49 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Fw: Power line pitition Docket #E015/Cn-12-1163
Attachments: DocTerryC-GreatNorthern Transmission Line.pdf

Importance: Low

----- Original Message -----

From: Bill or Terry Cox
To: rep.tom.anzelc@house.mn
Cc: rep.carly.melin@house.mn
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 12:25 PM
Subject: Power line pitition Docket #E015/Cn-12-1163

Tom , Carly, see attached thanks for your help on this matter
Bill

October 2013

We, the residents and property owners in the Little Bear, Horsehead, and Scooty Lakes areas, are strongly opposed to the westerly route of the GreatNorthern 500 KV transmission line along Itasca County Roads 52 and 544. We urge the Power Company and state agencies to consider the easterly route as the preferred alternative for the following reasons:

- Density of population - The number of year-round homes and cabins in the Little Bear, Horsehead, and Scooty Lakes areas vs. the alternate route to the east of Bear Lake.
 - The proposed westerly route traverses property of three year-round residents in the Little Bear area accessed from County Road 52.
 - There are 10-13 year-round residences on Little Bear & Scooty Lakes vs. no year-round homes on Bear Lake. In addition, four permanent residents of Horsehead Lake access their property from County Road 52.
 - Several cabins are located in close proximity to the proposed right of way along County Road 544.
- Safety and use of a float plane flown and housed at Little Bear Lake - Owner is a year-round resident on the lake and plane is fitted with floats and skis for both summer and winter use.
- Health risks associated with a high voltage electrical line located so close to resident and affects involving stray electrical energy.
- Noise generated by energy in the lines.
- Proximity to lakeshore and decline of property value from clearing of vegetation and effect to views. Who wants to look out a window or a vista of the lake and see these power line towers.

Name	Address
1. <u>George Mungu</u>	<u>20103 Little Bear Lake</u>
2. <u>Bill Cox</u>	<u>20136 Little Bear Lake Cook MN 55723</u>
3. <u>Terry Cox</u>	<u>20136 Little Bear Lake Rd Cook MN 55723</u>
4. <u>Suzanne Reinhardt</u>	<u>20183 Cty Rd 52 Cook MN 55723</u>
5. <u>Richard A. Rist</u>	<u>20183 Co. Rd. 52 Cook, MN 55723</u>
6. <u>Mark Stover</u>	<u>20313 County Road 52 Cook MN 55723</u>
7. <u>John Smith</u>	<u>20186 Little Bear Lake</u>

- 8. Chris McCallan Scooty Lake owner
- 9. Paul McCallan Scooty Lake owner
- 10. Eric McCallan " " "
- 11. Jim McCallan " " "
- 12. Tom McCallan " " "
- 13. Dennis McCallan Scooty Lake Owners
- 14. [Signature] " " "
- 15. Harry Koppes " " "
- 16. Jackie Koppes " " "
- 17. Jim Ryhus Countx Rd 544
- 18. Steven Nonkas 48501 E. SCOOTY DRIVE BOVEY MN 5570
- 19. _____
- 20. _____
- 21. _____
- 22. _____
- 23. _____
- 24. _____
- 25. _____
- 26. _____
- 27. _____
- 28. _____

- 29. Justin Tanner 6560 Meadowlark Lane N, Maple Grove
- 30. Alex Mendez 6426 Stevens Ave So Richfield
- 31. Richard Mendel 2351-112TH LN NW COON RAPIDS MN 55433
- 32. Ladonna Mendel 2351-112TH LN NW COON RAPIDS 55433
- 33. [Signature] 6826 Stevens Ave Richfield MN 5542
- 34. Lenny Mendel 6426 Stevens Richfield MN 554
- 35. Justin Tanner 21577 COON RD. 5800 BOVE
- 36. Eric Mendel 6426 Stevens Ave So Richfield MN 55423
- 37. Justin Tanner 11417 Winnetka Ave N. Champlin 55516
- 38. [Signature] 11417 Winnetka Ave N. Champlin, MN 5531
- 39. Wade Tanner 7840 48th Av N New Hope MN 55428
- 40. Elizabeth Tanner 7840 48th Av N New Hope MN 55428
- 41. CURT JOHNSON HERR SCOTT LK
- 42. DT JOHNSON SCOTT LK
- 43. Joseph Melin 16518 Tippecanoe ST NE Ham Lake MN 55304
- 44. Vicki Tanner 6500 Meadowlark Ln Maple Grove MN 55309
- 45. Justin Tanner 11511 133rd AVE Dayton MN.
- 46. _____
- 47. _____
- 48. _____
- 49. _____

- 29. ~~Kathy Liff~~ 21106 Harschead LKTR
- 30. ~~Theresa J. Seimer~~ 21297 Harschead LKTR
- 31. ~~Wendy Liff~~ 20014 Little Bear LKTR
- 32. _____
- 33. ~~Jessi Pahrle~~ 20156 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 34. ~~Rey Pahrle~~ 20156 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 35. ~~Whe Hogen~~ 20119 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 36. ~~Paula J. Hagen~~ 20119 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 37. ~~Jan B. Bunker~~ 20126 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 38. ~~Jenni Bunker~~ 20126 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 39. ~~Jane Smith~~ 20126 Little Bear Lake
- 40. ~~Craig Anderson~~ 20515 LITTLE BEAR LAKE
- 41. ~~Lance Anderson~~ 20515 LITTLE BEAR LAKE
- 42. ~~Bruce Clusman~~ 21173 LITTLE BEAR LAKE
- 43. ~~Michelle Clusman~~ u u u u
- 44. ~~Mark Stamba~~ 20083 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 45. ~~Laurie Stamba~~ 20083 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 46. ~~Doug Stamba~~ 20083 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 47. ~~Vicki Stamba~~ 20083 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 48. ~~Mad Shluis~~ 19873 Little Bear Lake Rd
- 49. ~~Greg Jan~~ 19961 Little Bear Lake Rd

- 50. W Van 20168 LITTLE BEAR LAKE ROAD
- 51. C. Vana 20168 Little Bear Lak Rd
- 52. Frank Reed 20155 LITTLE BEAR LAKE ROAD
- 53. VARJA TELSTAD 20920 City Rd 52 Cook, mn
- 54. Gerald Walsh 21190 Joliet RD.
- 55. Mark Walsh 21190 JOILET RD,
- 56. Kenneth Elmf 57339 City Rd. 544
- 57. Bob Engler 19997 City Rd 52
- 58. George Engberg 19997 County Rd 52
- 59. Glen Walsh 21190 Joliet RD.
- 60. Walt Schmitt 57611 County Road 544
- 61. Ascoo Boney 57611 Co Rd 544
- 62. Keith of Jus Co Rd 544
- 63. ~~_____~~ _____
- 64. _____
- 65. _____
- 66. _____
- 67. _____
- 68. _____
- 69. _____
- 70. _____

8. Jean Rudstrom 48732 W Scooty Lk. Dr.
9. Bessie Roberts 3336 S. 12th Place Mil, Wi
10. Vince Roberts 3336 S 15th Place mil, Wi
11. Beth Thiesen 48732 W Scooty Lk. Dr.
12. Paul Thiesen 48732 W. Scooty Lk. Dr.
13. Bruce Hartman 21167 Wolf Lk. Trail Boney
14. Wayne Hartman Eagle Pt. Trail Boney
15. Leslie Turner 21877 Co. Rd. 586 Boney
16. Bill Cromell Colvaine
17. Bob Sheemaker Wolf Lk. Trail Boney
18. Eileen Sheemaker Wolf Lk Trail Boney
19. Terry Schneider Chonist
20. Bennie Snyder Hwy 38 - Grand Rapids
21. Hardy Snyder Hwy. 38 Grand Rapids
22. Kevin Thiesen Maple Knoll Way - Maple Grove
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____

- 92 Linda Murphy
- 93 David Miller
- 94 Kathy Este
- 95 Pat Este
- 96 ~~Luftman~~
- 97 ~~Ruff~~
- 98 ~~Doyle~~
- 99 Amy Johnson
- 100 Nick Johnson
- 101 Sue Mishler
- 102 Deb Hajnal
- 103 Bob Johnson
- 104 Mike Johnson
- 105 Nicholas Hodge
- 106 John Falde
- 107 Joe Johnson
- 108 Tony Johnson
- 109 ~~John Johnson~~
- 110 ~~John Johnson~~
- 111 Bonnie Zueli
- 112 Joe Zueli
- 113 Blake Zueli
- 114 Zack Kamp Meyer
- 115 Jodi Kamp Meyer

- 116 Jodi Hall
- 117 Paul Hall
- 118 Crystal Hall
- 119 Jim Hall
- 120 Amy Hall
- 121 Carter Atkins
- 122 Brooklyn Atkins
- 123 Steve Atkins
- 124 Chris Atkins
- 125 Adam Atkins
- 126 Jamie Atkins
- 127 ~~Steve Atkins~~
- 128 ~~John Atkins~~
- 129 ~~John Atkins~~
- 130 ~~John Atkins~~
- 131 ~~John Atkins~~
- 132 Shawn Talley
- 133 Mary Talley
- 134 ~~John Talley~~
- 135 ~~John Talley~~
- 136 Joe Redpath
- 137 Joe Redpath
- 138 Jamie Redpath
- 139 John Redpath
- 140 ~~John Redpath~~

(2)

- 44 Ken Pope
- 45 Bruce Swanson
- 46 Ahmed de Lewis
- 47 Alii Meekin
- 48 Nelson Meekin
- 49 Tom Fikant
- 50 Patsy Ferguson
- 51 Juan Sargas
- 52 John Pike
- 53 Austin Castro
- 54 Riley Castro
- 55 John Maullus
- 56 Messy Maullus
- 57 Mansby Maullus
- 58 Linda Valeri
- 59 Justin Valeri
- 60 ~~John~~
- 61 Paula O'Brien
- 62 Matthew Maullus
- 63 Bethrie Maullus
- 64 Donald Wiener
- 65 Lodi Wiener
- 66 ~~Joan~~
- 67 Nancy Atkins

- 68 Mary Buethe
- 69 Maggie Johnson
- 70 Karen Probst
- 71 Dan Stabel
- 72 David MacFarlane
- 73 John Andersen
- 74 Garry Andersen
- 75 David Andersen
- 76 Buanna Olson
- 77 Tom Olson
- 78 Sheila Fikant
- 79 Deb Swanson
- 80 Pat Swanson
- 81 ~~Mark~~
- 82 Dyle Garcia
- 83 Mary Garcia
- 84 Mark Wytovich Ph.D.
- 85 Bonnie Wytovich
- 86 Lynn Wytovich
- 87 Mrs Wytovich
- 88 Joe Wytovich
- 89 Cindy Wytovich
- 90 Bonnie Wytovich
- 91 Sherri Garcia

Phone Call Appointments

4

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 141. Eoin McKeown | 165 Tom |
| 142 Carmie McKeown | 166 John |
| 143 Stasia McKeown | 167 May Patrose |
| 144 Dany Murray | 168 Ruby Farley |
| 145 Fua Macellus | 169 Tom McFarley |
| 146 Eileen Redpath | 170 Don Buttle |
| 147 Fiden Redpath | 171 May Buttle |
| 148 Teri Redpath | 172 Amy Meyer |
| 149 Ally Redpath | 173 Tom Meyer |
| 150 Jann Redpath | 174 Paul Meyer |
| 151 Dingo Gutierrez | 175 Ted Quiviste |
| 152 Foster Jones Gutierrez | 176 Tamara Musuashi |
| 153 Benito Gutierrez | 177 Margaret Leounal |
| 154 Mahil Gutierrez | 178 Andy Leounal |
| 155 Lu-lu-Luis | 179 Becca Leounal |
| 156 Maria Jewell | 180 Becca Leounal |
| 157 Pat Jewell | 181 Becca Leounal |
| 158 Zaphira Jewell | 182 May Buttle |
| 159 Crystal McElroy | 183 Maureen Wideman |
| 160 Shannon McHenry | 184 Jim Wideman |
| 161 Lynsay Mackin | 185 Joel Wideman |
| 162 Chris Howell | 186 John Wideman |
| 163 Bruce Howell | 187 John |
| 164 Lynsay Powell | 188 John |

Petition Against Power Lines Thru Scooty Lake. Phone Call Approvals

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Peggy Cole | 21 Carol Lodge |
| 2 Jay Co | 22 Dan |
| 3 Teri Malarky | 23 C. Edman |
| 4 Malarky | 24 Pat Leonard |
| 5 Linda Altemberg | 25 Barb Luff |
| 6 Rick Holmberg | 26 Nancy Luff |
| 7 Julie Kamp Meyer | 27 Bobbi MacFarlane |
| 8 Kathy Hill | 28 Chris MacFarlane |
| 9 Steve Larson | 29 Jim MacFarlane |
| 10 Jennifer Jaspersen | 30 Jay MacFarlane |
| 11 | 31 Logal MacFarlane |
| 12 O. Gutierrez | 32 Crystal MacFarlane |
| 13 Martin Lewis | 33 Mandi Castro |
| 14 Ron | 34 Arnold Castro |
| 15 Macey Attlee | 35 Bob Johnson |
| 16 Dorothy MacFarlane | 36 Tom MacFarlane |
| 17 Gary Owens | 37 Jennifer MacFarlane |
| 18 | 38 Kenny MacFarlane |
| 19 Karen Kittle | 39 Jay MacFarlane |
| 20 John Kittle | 40 Charles Alan Marcellus |
| Bob Lodge | 41 Bob MacFarlane |
| Aaron Lodge | 42 Chris MacFarlane |
| Julio Lodge | 43 Linda MacFarlane |

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Rodney Pierce <r.blaine.pierce@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 8:30 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Comment on the Great Northern Transmission Line (Docket no. 12-1163)

15 November 2013

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Public comment on the Great Northern Transmission Line (Docket no. 12-1163)

Dear Commissioners,

Please consider this a public comment on need and proposed routing for the great northern transmission line. We are adamantly opposed to proposed routes between Clearbrook and Blackduck. Concerns for proposed routes south of Red Lake include impacts to important fish and wildlife habitat and the effects on recreational use of the areas, as well as use of our own properties.

In particular, it is not acceptable to run a major transmission line through or anywhere near a State of Minnesota designated aquatic habitat area such as the Balm Lake Aquatic Management Area. Department of Natural Resource conservation professionals select special habitat areas such as the one at Balm Lake based on their importance as vital fisheries and wildlife habitat. The Balm Lake Aquatic Management Area enjoyed public support for it's creation even during a period when the Beltrami County Board had a policy of no net gain of publicly-held land.

Moreover, routes south of Red Lake pass through a region of recreational lakes and other recreational and agricultural property, and a large transmission line will impact property values, recreational activities, and visual aesthetics of the region. Proposed routes near Moose Lake, Balm Lake, Dellwater Lake, Mina Lake, Island Lake and Clearwater Lake will detract from fishing, boating, resort and cabin activities, and other recreational uses of these lakes and negatively influence property values and economics generated by those and other recreational activities. While impacts to visual aesthetics may be difficult to quantify, we believe they are equally important for this unique regional string of lakes. The proposed transmission line routes south of Red Lake do not minimize impacts to natural resources, residents, or tourism.

We are proponents of enhanced conservation of existing electricity resources rather than importing additional energy. Furthermore, we do not wish to imply that the big bog north of Red Lake is unimportant habitat, but in the event the transmission line is developed, we believe that a route north of Red Lake following existing transmission line corridors would be more appropriate than routes south of Red Lake.

Thank you for considering these comments,

Rodney and Diane Pierce
Balm Lake property owners

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: david sogard <dbsoyard@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 10:57 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Dear Public Utility Commissioners

Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket # 12-1163

My husband and I have had a seasonal (all but winter) home on the south shore of Balm Lake since 1985. We chose this lake because of its unspoiled, less developed condition. Our view across the lake looks directly at the proposed Northern Balm 345 transmission Route. The 150 ft high towers would loom over and drastically alter the unchanged and pristine vista that we have cherished for the last 30 years. The south Balm lake route would go across the 120 acre nature preserve that my husband has carefully developed. During the last 15 years he spent hundreds of hours creating this benign window on the native forest habitat. There are over 3 miles of nature/ski trails which would be violated by the clear cutting associated with the line. What is now home to grouse, woodcock, pileated woodpeckers, owls, northern pocket gophers, martins, and many other animals and birds would be negatively effected if not ruined by the right of way preparation. This area has a wide diversity of plant life and we have made great effort to clear out the invasive species like buckthorn to help encourage the native species to thrive. The significant number of leatherwood bushes we have growing in our forest, gives testimony to the excellent soil and growing conditions for native species. We, and our environment, would be significantly impacted by placing this large transmission near Balm Lake.

For these reasons we are personally opposed to the southern route and believe the northern routes, which would go north of Red Lake would be the best choice.

There are also good public policy reasons for choosing one of the north routes as the preferred route. By selecting the option for the route that goes east to the iron range before dropping south, you would be placing a larger percentage of the burden of this large line on the consumers of Minnesota Power who are supposedly receiving the benefit of the line. How much benefit is actually going the consumers and how much is going to the MP stockholders or to Manitoba Hydro through their 49% ownership of what they must view as a surplus sales outlet, is up to your commission to determine. Regardless, to take the southern route would put the greater burden on members of the Beltrami Electric Cooperative customers and other coops, who would receive no direct benefit from the line. Fairness points you to select the northern far eastern route.

Either of the northern routes would have less of an impact on people. The southern route would negatively impact farm, business and recreational property. The northern route might impact more wetland, but our state has an abundance of riches in that area. With the use of guided towers, the impact on wetlands would be just a tiny percentage of the surrounding wetlands and would not have the systemic shock that would occur to the mixed forest and fen ecosystems in the area south of Red Lake. The impact to the environment, as a whole, is much more severe on the southern route because it crosses a more diverse geography.

For the good of the public, and the environment, we urge you to select the northern route as the best choice for your constituents and the State of Minnesota.

Stevie and David Sogard
#28849 Retreat Road
Solway, Minnesota

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: barb & phil <bjselmec@smig.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 12:44 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Opposition to Great Northern Transmission Line

Greetings, As a land owner on Balm Lake, Alaska Township, I wish to give notice that I oppose the running of the Great Northern Transmission Line anywhere south of the Red Lake Indian Reservation.

The transmission line should go north of Red Lake, IN THE SERVICE AREA of Great Northern customers. Why? Great Northern has indicated that they want the Canadian power for future needs, this includes power for any future mining operations in the north. It does not make sense to run the power lines south of Red Lake then run more miles up to the north to service their northern customers. How much voltage/power drop will the extra distance lose? Are they putting up the most efficient, newest lines available? Ceramic?

Phil Selmecki
2305 16th ave SW
Austin, Mn 55912

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Gretchen Elsner <gretchen.elsner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 2:20 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket 12-1163 - keep Balm Lake pristine

To Whom It May Concern:

My family has owned 30 acres of property on the north side of Balm Lake (Beltrami Co.) since the early 1920s, when my grandfather purchased a piece of land on which he built a log cabin. The property is off the electrical grid, and intentionally so.

As I learn more of this massive project and am quite surprised that routes passing to the south of the Red Lake Indian Reservation would even be considered. Rather than disrupt the landscape along a beautiful string of lakes that are populated by local landowners as well as many tourists and seasonal visitors, it seems very obvious to me that the proposed route North of Red Lake would be a much more logical choice.

My family has enjoyed this property for nearly a century, which is now jointly owned. It's a simple lifestyle at the cabin - fishing, hunting, swimming, many boating options, and just enjoying a family reunion among the variety of wildlife and flora that the north woods has to offer.

The proposed route that passes north of Balm Lake would pass very near our property. The towers would be right in front of us. Beyond the visual pollution, a major concern I have is the safety of the property. We currently live at the end of a road, and like most property owners, we always know we are vulnerable to theft. An open corridor through the forest would mean easy access and escape and would vastly increase our vulnerability. This corridor would no doubt also bring in many more hunters and unwanted snowmobile and 4-wheeler traffic. Just as important, this route would also likely disrupt the Balm Lake Aquatic Management Area, an area that was set aside by the State of Minnesota as a natural habitat sanctuary to be preserved for future generations.

The proposed route to the south of Balm Lake would not be any better. Having to look at 140 ft towers from the Lake, whether to the north or south is just not acceptable. From our shore, seeing them to the South out our large front windows . . . All day, every day, would change the whole experience of being there. They would be in total disharmony with their surroundings and have a negative impact on everyone who had to look at them.

I am very concerned for future generations. We enjoy the Lake Experience like many others throughout the State of Minnesota. It's a lifestyle that is limited to many by simple geographical availability. And it's a privilege to be a part of. We think it **should be preserved**, *particularly* for Lakes classified by the State and County as "Natural Environment / Sensitive Area" as are Balm Lake and affected nearby Lakes.

The natural surroundings and a basic lifestyle drew my granfather to the area all those years ago. To this day, we remain off the electrical grid! How ironic would it be if we would have to look at these towers . . . forever. They bring no benefit to *anyone* near this area.

IF a line of this size is definitely deeded, I urge the Commission to choose a northern route that avoids the Balm Lake proposed routes.

Thank you,

Gretchen Elsner
Attorney at Law



November 15, 2013

Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line
Docket #12-1163
PUBLIC COMMENT

We are the officers and board of directors of the Balm Lake Lakeshore Owners Association, speaking for all of our members, who remain dismayed by the two proposed southern routes for the transmission line that literally surround our lake, classified as natural environment by the DNR and sensitive by Beltrami County. While we applaud the use of clean, emission-free energy from sustainable sources such as hydro, we are puzzled why Minnesota power would even consider a route south of the Red Lake Reservation in what the DNR calls the Northern Lakes District. Those routes would inflict far more environmental damage on lakes, trees, wildlife, farms, permanent and seasonal residents than possible damages that could be inflicted upon ANY northern routes. Because both of the southern routes would be located near the shores of Balm Lake, one of them even crossing a protected state aquatic management area, we will do everything we can to stop both, up to and including litigation.

We will outline our specific issues by addressing the factors Minnesota Power said would dictate routing decisions: Population Density, Mining and Industrial Development Needs, Large Bodies of Water, Existing Transmission Lines and Transportation Corridors and Unsuitable Conditions for Construction, and Protected Natural and Recreational Areas.

Population Density and the impact of transmission routes focus on numbers.

Figures in the new Minnesota state map that was just issued show that three counties along the southern routes (Polk, Clearwater and Beltrami) have permanent populations totalling 84,737 while the three northern counties (Roseau, Lake of the Woods and Koochiching) have 32,995, less than half of the southern counties. Clearly, 500kV lines can best avoid hurting human beings with exposure to electronic and magnetic fields and stray voltage by avoiding where human beings live, nest, play, fish, hike, hunt, birdwatch, ski, ride snowmobiles and yes, even VOTE. Actually, some of us can't vote here, because we are seasonal visitors who have lake cabins. That means the

population along the southern routes is far greater than the official population numbers would suggest. The DNR predicts a population increase of 45 percent by 2030 in the Northern Lakes area, which includes the southern counties.

Minnesota Power tries to make the case that onetime construction of a 240-mile-long transmission line will somehow economically benefit the people whose land they will take and/or permanently impact. They do this by paying the school of business at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where Minnesota Power is headquartered, to conduct a study that purports to show how their transmission line will result in dazzling economic growth and job creation in the counties they cross. As the old saying goes, you get what you pay for, although the numbers they sought and got are at best inflated guesses. The true beneficiaries of the transmission line are Minnesota Power and Allete, their stockholders, executives and employees; and their customers they provide electricity. For residents along the southern routes, the transmission lines are a onetime project built by outsiders that will clear-cut and occupy a 240-mile-long, 200-foot-wide swath totalling 5,800 acres through the northern lake country, boreal forests and productive farms. While a significant percentage of the population along the proposed northern route **will** benefit as electricity customers of Minnesota Power, those of us living along the southern route will not get that power. Instead, we are left living with a transmission line with 150-foot poles that tower over our forests, lakes and farms. (By comparison, the recent "Sense of Place" edition of Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, DNR's magazine, has a photograph of Minnesota's largest red pine, the state tree. That tree, located in Koochiching County, is only 120 feet high, 30 feet below the top of the proposed transmission poles.

Future **Mining and Industrial Power Needs** are at best uncertain in the iron range and Boundary Waters area, and we question whether they justify routing power lines and poles as high as 14 story buildings through our boreal forest environment in the land of 10,000 lakes. Our unspoiled lakes fuel one of Minnesota's most established businesses--**tourism**. While Minnesota Powers' information handouts mention the importance of planning for future mining and industrial development, they fail to address the impact of their transmission lines on the tourism that currently dominates Beltrami County's economy. Precisely because of the unspoiled beauty and environment of Balm and other northern lakes, visitors are attracted to resort accommodations and to purchasing or building lake cabins. Also, we note that Minnesota Power's evidence that mining and industrial needs will require more electricity does not fully support building a 500kV line because the company has shown only the projected need for 250kV and is searching for partners to purchase the other half of the transmission line's capacity.

Large Bodies of Water: Minnesota power completely avoided its most direct route, and Minnesota's largest lake, probably because they feared lengthy litigation with the Red Lake Band of Chippewa over routes through their reservation. Instead, they have proposed avoiding the reservation by circling around to the north in the vast peat bogs, or circling around the reservation to the south along a string of unspoiled natural lakes surrounded by mature forests and through productive farmlands in the west. While the

law does require Minnesota Power to propose at least two appropriate routes to the PUC, we believe their routing proposals thus far have provided only one appropriate route--the sole route north of the reservation. The string of natural lakes south of the reservation are populated by a significant number of residents, seasonal residents, resorts, tourists, and small towns, while the sparsely populated and vast peat bogs of the north have less than half the population of the south. While we speak only for Balm Lake, many of our concerns apply to the other lakes along the southern routes--Battle, Blackduck, Medicine, Gull, White Fish, Nebish, Island, Mina, Dellwater, Moose, Round (also known as Sylvia), Bagley, Clearwater and more. Isn't the north, which has few lakes and one big bog, a better place for a transmission line with poles so high they have to be strung and serviced by helicopters?

Existing Transmission Lines and Transportation corridors and Unsuitable

Conditions for Construction. Since Minnesota Power has previously planned, routed and built a transmission line in the peat land, they know that it can be done despite the swampy, remote terrain. Routing new lines along the existing transmission corridor could lower costs for the company and ease what ALLETE President Alan Hodnik has called "landowner fatigue" for those living along new routes. Also, when the Minnesota Power constructed its transmission line in 1984, they learned from a study conducted by the University of Minnesota-Duluth that construction of a transmission line there would have a minimal impact on bird nesting and avian mortality precisely because of the lack of trees and lakes in the peat bogs. Nor does Minnesota Power have to spray their 200 foot corridors with broadleaf herbicides since the bogs have few trees and vegetation that grows very slowly. The Peatlands, as the DNR calls them, have mostly bogs and swamps, fewer residents, fewer trees, fewer birds, and far less diversity in other wildlife. While we sympathize with Minnesotans who live up north and value their own unique natural environment, and hope you will hear their concerns and respond accordingly, our task here is to show the potential negative impact of either southern route on lakes, forests and productive farms. **Any** route south of Red Lake is unacceptable. Literally, it should be the Great **Northern** Transmission line.

While Minnesota Power says their routing avoids **Protected Natural and Recreational Areas**, their two southern routes would clear cut a 200 foot swath of healthy timber, follow a string of natural lakes, endanger a diverse population of songbirds, waterfowl, fish and other aquatic animals, and even border an aquatic management area (AMA) established only two years ago by the DNR. Minnesota Power's proposed routing of the largest-load power line possible across two different sides of Balm Lake is not the first proposed project to threaten our lake. Two years ago, the Secluded Land Company, a developer, proposed building 23 lake lots and cabins on 160 acres with 6,600 feet of virgin lakeshore. They secured an option to buy the land, filed a proposed plat, logged and built an entry road, and in doing so spent considerable money planning the project. We expressed our opposition to what would have been the largest development ever on Balm lake on the largest stretch of unspoiled lakeshore that harbors the lake's most important habitat for nesting and feeding wildlife--a wide array of songbirds and waterfowl, mammals and 13 species of fish. When they continued plans for the development, we announced we would file a citizen petition with the state of Minnesota

for a complete environmental impact review. The company then retreated and decided to allow its option on the land to expire, and withdrew its proposed plat.

At that point, the Balm Lake Association approached the DNR to ask whether the sensitive land at issue could be protected using funds provided by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment of the Minnesota Constitution that was approved by a vote of the people. That remarkable commitment by the people of Minnesota imposed new sales taxes on themselves “to protect our drinking water resources; to protect, enhance and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater...”

The regional DNR office in Bemidji, well aware of the unique, unspoiled quality of Balm Lake and the importance of those 160 acres as habitat for aquatic and land animals, some of which are protected species, proposed purchasing the acreage to create an aquatic management area. At that time, Mike Carroll, then DNR Northwest Regional Director and now assistant DNR commissioner in St. Paul, told the Beltrami County Commission that buying the land “fits our conservation mission.” The DNR, explaining why they wanted to use Legacy Amendment funds to create the Balm Lake aquatic management area, explained that “undeveloped shoreline is some of the most sensitive and important shoreline for maintaining water quality and fish habitat; shorelines and shallow water areas with their aquatic plants help protect the lake from erosion and absorb nutrients and pollutants as well as provide excellent places for wildlife and fish to feed, hide and raise their young. Protection of the larger watershed that drains into Balm Lake is also needed to maintain water quality.”

It was approved and established in 2011 and named the Dann Siems Aquatic Management Area to honor the memory of a longtime Bemidji aquatic biologist. Dann spoke to the first meeting of our association, congratulating us on living on such a beautiful and unspoiled lake, but warning us that Balm is a sensitive lake that could turn “green”—not in a good sense, but becoming green and cloudy with algae. Dann’s passion inspired us to work together to improve the clarity of our water by phasing out livestock grazing on our southern lakeshore, eliminating a corn field and ending unwanted runoff by terracing land on the west end, and diminishing our own potentially harmful runoffs into the lake.

The history and creation of the Dan Siems Aquatic Management area are relevant to Minnesota Power’s proposed transmission lines because the northern most of the company’s proposed two southern routes passes directly through the aquatic management area and the proposed other southern route is nearby on the south side of Balm Lake. When Minnesota Power first unveiled its proposed routes and maps that claimed to show all parks and natural areas, none of those maps showed the Dann Siems Aquatic Management Area on Balm Lake. Only after we complained did Minnesota Power acknowledge the location by putting it on the maps. Yet when they later announced the paring down of potential transmission line routes, the two remaining southern routes--the finalists--were literally on the shores of Balm Lake, the

northern one passing through the aquatic management area, the other through a mature mixed forest of pines and hardwoods on the south shore. Both of the proposed transmission routes that border Balm Lake would seriously impact the lake, its environs, the aquatic management area (AMA), and its current rich array of wildlife.

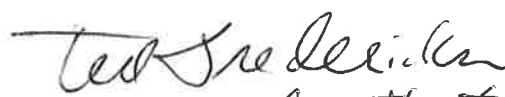
The AMA is 160 acres with 6,600 feet of unspoiled Balm Lake shoreline and is designed to protect aquatic wildlife, waterfowl and songbirds who live and nest there. Locating the power lines there would kill some of them, both from flying into the power lines that would line either side of Balm Lake, and by electrocuting birds with wing spans wide enough to fatally contact two lines. Balm Lake's big birds include bald eagles, ospreys, pelicans, turkey vultures, geese, blue and green herons, trumpeter swans, and loons, our Minnesota state birds who raise their young every year both in the AMA and other parts of our lake. Clear cutting 200 foot swaths of timber on either side of Balm Lake would also eliminate tall trees that provide nesting habitat for many of these birds. The loss of the vegetation would impact the quality and quantity of runoff into the lake, bringing into the water more silt and even pollutants (broadleaf weed killers) sprayed regularly by Minnesota Power to maintain the cleared footprint of the transmission lines.

All of the lakes along the southern route would have the same problems, including Clearwater Lake, which is southwest of Balm Lake and northeast of the town of Clearbrook. Improving the water quality of Clearwater Lake and the Clearwater River is one of the top priorities of Beltrami County's Water Plan initiated by William Patnaude, the county's director of environmental services.

We hope to connect with other lake associations, our state legislators, county officials and environmental organizations to oppose any southern transmission line route that so clearly will harm human populations, wildlife, birds and the environment. For now, we speak only for our Balm Lake community. We are a diverse group. Among our Balm Lake residents are doctors, lawyers, engineers, retired DNR employees including a state park manager, professors, gun-smiths, well-diggers, mail-carriers, carpenters, small business owners, truck drivers, mechanics, resort-owners, a sheriff, a minister, teachers, a fireman, and two prominent members of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa.

Whatever our occupations, we all share a love and appreciation for the natural environment of Balm Lake and Minnesota's other Northern Lakes. We hope the information and opinions we have provided will be helpful to you in making your decisions and look forward to addressing PUC hearings when you hold them in 2014.


Sincerely,

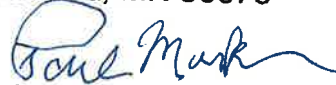
 Ted Frede
speaking for the following.

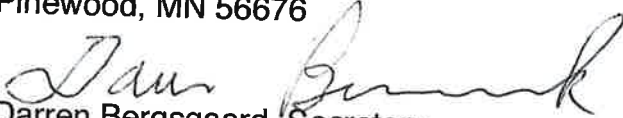
TedFrede@ku.edu


(The officers and Board of Directors of the Balm Lake Lakeshore Owners Association)

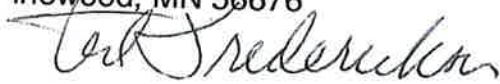
P.S. I had to send a hard copy because your online system wouldn't allow me to send a pdf that works every place else.

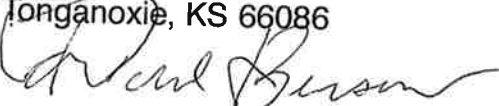

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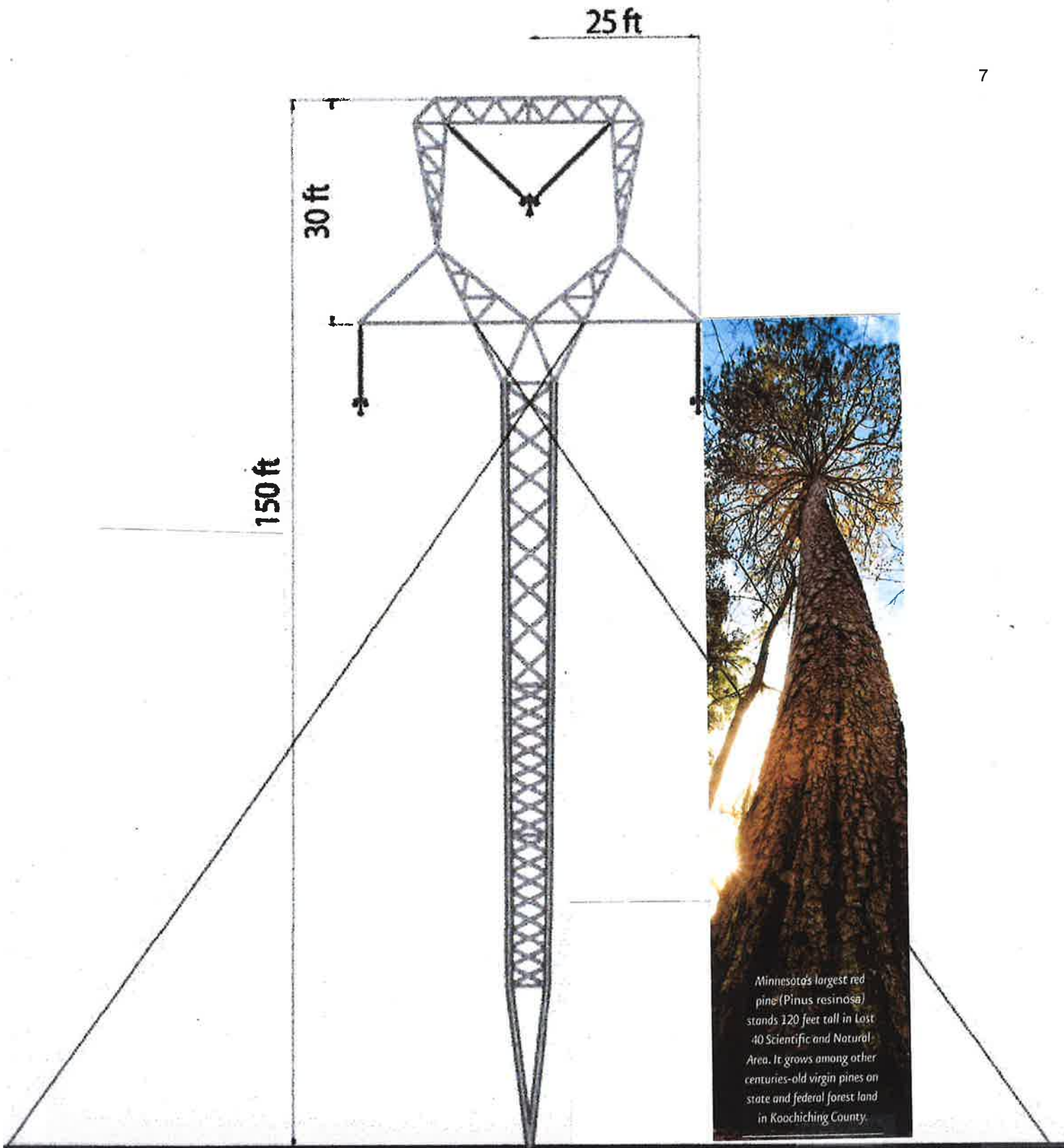

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Attached: two illustrations on pages 7 and 8



Minnesota's largest red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) stands 120 feet tall in Last 40 Scientific and Natural Area. It grows among other centuries-old virgin pines on state and federal forest land in Koochiching County.

A 500kV transmission tower (150 feet) and Minnesota's biggest red pine (120 feet)

BALM LAKE
AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AREA
AN OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND PROJECT EST. 2011
IN MEMORY OF DANN SIEMS
IN COOPERATION WITH BALM LAKE ASSOCIATION AND
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

